



**ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
RULES OF PROCEDURE
(Last Revision: 11/21/2024)**

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RULE 1. TIME AND PLACE OF MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Rule or by Resolution of the Board, a regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held on the fourth Thursday of January, March, May, June, and September, commencing at the hour of 6:00 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room, Regional Fire Operation and Training Center (RFOTC), One Fire Authority Road, Irvine. The meeting for the month of November shall be scheduled for the third Thursday, commencing at the hour of 6:00 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room, RFOTC, One Fire Authority Road, Irvine. Agendas shall be posted 10 business days in advance of scheduled regular Board meetings. When calculating “business days”, Saturdays and Sundays shall be excluded, but other holidays shall be included. Special meetings may occur on other dates, times, and/or locations as noticed.

- (b) Except as otherwise provided in this Rule, a regular meeting of the Executive Committee shall be held on the fourth Thursday of each month, with the exception of August and December, commencing at the hour of 5:30 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room, RFOTC, One Fire Authority Road, Irvine. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the regular November Executive Committee meeting business will be combined with the Board of Director's meeting. Special meetings may occur on other dates, times, and/or locations as noticed.
- (c) The Clerk of the Authority shall maintain the official meeting calendar, and shall post same in the display case located in the lobby of the Board Meeting Room and posting case outside main entry gate, RFOTC, One Fire Authority Road, Irvine.
- (d) Any meeting of the Board may be adjourned to any other date and time when necessary for the transaction of business. Any adjourned meeting of the Board is part of a regular meeting.
- (e) Special meetings of the Board may be called pursuant to and in accordance with Section 54956 of the Government Code. The Clerk shall prepare the notice and call of any special meeting. The notice shall specify the time and place of the special meeting and the business to be transacted. No other business shall be considered at such special meeting. A copy of the notice of the special meeting shall also be posted at the places designated in subsection (c) of Rule 1.
- (f) In the event the Board or Executive Committee, or their respective Chairs, determine it advisable to hold a regular meeting at a location other than the Board Meeting Room, RFOTC, One Fire Authority Road, Irvine, a notice specifying the location of such meeting shall be posted in the display case in the lobby of the Board Meeting Room and posting case outside main entry gate, RFOTC, One Fire Authority Road, Irvine. Additional notices shall be posted and maintained as set forth in (c) above.

RULE 2. AGENDAS/MINUTES FOR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- (a) Items for the agenda for any regular meeting of the Board may be included on the agenda only with the approval of the Fire Chief or the Chair of the Board.
- (b) (i) During the Board Member Comments portion of a Board meeting, any member may direct that an item be placed on the next agenda of the Board of Directors. The item will be placed on the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors with a brief description of the item (not yet researched by staff), unless the request is revoked by the requesting Board Member prior to public circulation of the Board meeting agenda containing the item. The Board will then (i) determine whether to direct OCFA staff to prepare a full agenda report for a future Board meeting, and (b) provide direction whether the matter should be reviewed by a Board committee prior to presentation to the full Board.
- (ii) At any time other than during Board Member Comments, any Board Member may contact the Chair to request that an item be placed on the agenda of a future meeting of the Board of Directors and, if the Chair concurs in the request, the item will be placed on the agenda for a future meeting of the Board of

Directors as the Chair directs with a full staff report, and subject to any prior review by a Board Committee review that the Board Chair may direct..

- (c) As required by the Ralph M. Brown Act, items not on the posted agenda for a meeting shall not be considered by the Board except as follows:
 - (1) Upon determination by a majority vote of the Board that an emergency situation exists. The determination shall be made prior to Board consideration of the emergency item. An emergency situation is limited to:
 - (a) Work stoppage or other activity which severely impairs public health, safety or both.
 - (b) Crippling disaster which severely impairs public health, safety or both.
 - (2) Upon determination by a two-thirds vote of the Board Members present, or a unanimous vote if less than two-thirds of the Members are present, that there is a need to take immediate action and that the need came to the attention of the Authority subsequent to the agenda being posted. The determination shall be made prior to Board consideration of the item.
 - (3) The item was posted for a prior meeting occurring not more than five calendar days prior to the date action is taken on the item and at which prior meeting, the item was continued to the meeting at which action is being taken.
- (d) The OCFA Board has adopted the use of Robert's Rules of Order as its official guideline in the creation of minutes. All Board/Committee meeting will be documented using action-type minutes. Minutes will document the record of what actions were taken by the governing body, not what was said. The minutes will not contain personal comments or someone's opinion about what happened.
 - (1) The minutes shall document the items identified in Rule 3 in the Board's Order of Business.
 - (2) Public comments will identify the name of the speaker, their city of residences/or organization they represent (if provided by the speaker), and identify the subject to which their comments are being submitted. If commenting on a specific agenda item, the minutes will record the speaker's name, their city of residences/or organization they represent (if provided), and identify if they are speaking in support or opposition of that item.
- (e) Notwithstanding any provision in these Rules to the contrary, no Memorandum of Understanding, or amendment, codicil, side letter, or any other modification to a Memorandum of Understanding, including any such documents negotiated pursuant to a reopener clause, between the Orange County Fire Authority and any employee bargaining unit ("proposed labor agreement"), shall be heard as an item on a Board agenda until and unless, at the time of the meeting during which the matter is heard by the Board, seven days has passed since the later of the following to occur: (1) the Clerk of the Authority has published a copy of the proposed document on the OCFA public website; and (2) the members of the employee bargaining unit have ratified the proposed labor agreement.

RULE 3. ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(a) The business for regular meetings of the Board shall include:

Invocation
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call
Presentations
Committee Reports
Fire Chief's Report
Public Comments
Minutes
Consent Calendar

(1) Agenda review at call of the Chair to identify those items on the Consent Calendar which a member of the Board or public requests the opportunity to discuss.

(2) Approval at the call of the Chair of those items for which there is no request for discussion.

(3) Discussion of items that the public has requested an opportunity to discuss shall be taken in sequential order.

Public Hearing(s)
Discussion Calendar
Closed Session
Closed Session Report
Adjournment

The Chair may alter or deviate the order of business.

(b) Lengthy Meeting Rule: During the transition between the Board's consideration of agenda items, any member of the Board may request that the Chair take a brief moment from the agenda at hand to discuss which items will be considered during the meeting and those that may be continued to the next meeting.

(c) Decisions to continue items to a future meeting shall be approved by majority vote of the Board members present.

RULE 4. MOTIONS DURING MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(a) Action of the Board shall be taken by motion. Any action of the Board may be proposed by the motion of any Member. Such a motion, if seconded by any member, shall be on the floor and must be considered, unless a substitute motion has been made, seconded, and adopted. If a motion is not seconded, the motion fails for lack of a second, and shall be so declared by the Chair.

(b) A motion may be withdrawn or amended by its maker at any time before adoption or rejection, with the consent of the second. Absent the consent of the second, the original motion shall remain on the floor. The second to a motion may be withdrawn by the seconder at any time before adoption or rejection of the motion. Upon withdrawal of the second, the motion will be lost for lack of a second and so declared by the Chair unless seconded by another Member.

- (c) After a motion has been seconded, any Member may discuss the subject of the motion. The Chair may, on any motion, call for the vote if it appears that further discussion will be repetitious or that a majority of the Members present concur in the call.
- (d) A motion to reconsider the vote on an agenda item may be made at the meeting at which the item was acted upon, or any adjourned session of the same meeting.

RULE 5. DECORUM FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS

- (a) Members of the Board shall conduct themselves in an orderly and business-like manner to ensure that the business of the Authority shall be attended to efficiently and thoroughly and to ensure that the integrity of the deliberative process of the Board is maintained at all times. Members of the Board shall maintain a polite, respectful, and courteous manner when addressing one another, Authority staff, and members of the public during the meetings.
- (b) Subject to direction by a majority of the Board, the Chair, or in the Chair's absence the Vice Chair, or in their absence any other member designated by the Board, shall be responsible for resolving all procedural issues and for maintaining the orderly conduct and decorum of meetings. It shall be the duty of the Chair to ensure that the rules of decorum contained herein are observed. The Chair shall maintain control of communication among Board Members, and between Board Members and the public.
- (c) Communication by Board Members
 1. Board Members should be recognized by the Chair before speaking.
 2. A Board Member who is speaking shall remember that the purpose of the meeting is to attend to and resolve Authority business. Board Members shall avoid repetition and shall endeavor to limit their comments to the subject matter at hand. Board Members shall endeavor to express their views without engaging in lengthy debates.
 3. When one Board Member is speaking, other Board Members shall not interrupt or otherwise disturb the speaker.
- (d) Communication with members of the public addressing the Board.
 1. Board Members may question the person addressing the Board at the conclusion of the person's comments. A Board Member wishing to ask questions of a member of the public should first be recognized by the Chair.
 2. Board Members shall not engage the person addressing the Board in a dialogue, but shall confine communication to a question and answer format.
 3. If a member of the audience has addressed the Board on matters which are not on the agenda, Board Members shall refrain from extended discussions of the matter. If a Board Member so wishes, he/she may, during the Board Member Comments portion of the meeting, request that the matter be placed on a future agenda.

- (e) Authority Staff shall not engage in a dialogue with members of the public during Board meetings. When addressed by the Board, staff shall respond in a polite and respectful manner.
- (f) Members of the Audience shall not engage in disorderly or boisterous conduct, including the utterance of loud, threatening or abusive language, clapping, whistling, and stamping of feet or other acts which disturb, disrupt, impede or otherwise render the orderly conduct of the Board meeting unfeasible. A member of the audience engaging in any such conduct shall, at the discretion of the Chair or a majority of the Board Members, be subject to removal from that meeting.
- (g) Members of the public may address the Board of Directors during the Public Comment Period and prior to the consideration of any agenda item. Any person wishing to speak, whether during the Public Comment Period or on an agenda item, shall first complete a request to speak form slip and submit the form to the Authority Clerk prior to the calling to order of the meeting or as soon as possible thereafter.
- (h) No person shall address the Board of Directors without first being recognized by the Chair.
- (i) The purpose of addressing the Board of Directors is to formally communicate to the Board on matters relating to Authority business or citizen concerns within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. Persons addressing the Board on an agenda item shall confine the subject matter of their remarks to the particular matter before the Board.
- (j) Each person addressing the Board of Directors shall do so in an orderly manner and shall not engage in any conduct, which disrupts, disturbs, or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of the Board meeting. Any person, who so disrupts the meeting shall, at the discretion of the Chair or a majority of the Board Members, be subject to removal from that meeting.
- (k) Persons addressing the Board of Directors shall address the Board as a whole and shall not engage in a dialogue with individual Board Members, Authority staff, or members of the audience.
- (l) A time limit of approximately three minutes per person shall be allocated to all persons addressing the Board of Directors, however, at the discretion of the Chair, an individual speaking on behalf of a group sharing common concerns or opinions may be allocated additional time to speak for the group. A total of approximately thirty minutes will be allocated at the beginning of the meeting for Public Comments, with additional time granted at the discretion of the Chair. If needed, additional time for Public Comments will be provided at the conclusion of the normal business of the Board.
- (m) Upon a violation of the rules of decorum established herein, the procedure to enforce the rules is as follows:
 - 1. Warning: The Chair shall first request that a person who is violating the rules cease such conduct. If, after receiving a request from the Chair, the person persists in violating these rules, the Chair shall order a recess. Any representative of the local assigned law enforcement personnel who is present

at the meeting when the violation occurred shall be authorized to warn the person that his/her conduct is violating the rules and that he/she is requested to cease such conduct. If upon resumption of the meeting the violation persists, the Chair shall order another recess, whereupon the local assigned law enforcement personnel shall have the authority to order the person removed from the meeting and/or cited in violation of Penal Code Section 403.

2. Motion to Enforce: If the Chair of the Board fails to enforce the rules of decorum set forth herein, any Board Member may move to require the Chair to do so, and an affirmative vote of a majority of the Board shall require the Chair to do so. If the Chair fails to carry out the will of the majority of the Board, the majority may designate another Board Member to act as Chair for the limited purpose of enforcing the rules of decorum established herein.
3. Clearing the Room: Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.9, in the event that any meeting is willfully interrupted by a person or groups of persons so as to render the orderly conduct of such meeting unfeasible and order cannot be restored by the removal of the individuals who are willfully interrupting the meeting, by a majority vote of the Board Members the meeting room may be ordered cleared and the meeting shall continue in session. Only matters appearing on the agenda may be considered in such a session. Representatives of the press or other news media, except those participating in the disturbance, shall be allowed to attend any session held pursuant to this Section 54957.9.
4. Violation of the California Penal Code: A person or persons who substantially impair(s) the conduct of a Board meeting by knowingly and intentionally violating these rules of decorum may be prosecuted under Penal Code Section 403 for disturbing a public meeting. Every person who violates Penal Code Section 403 is guilty of a misdemeanor.

RULE 6. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ABSENCE OF PRESIDING OFFICER

- (a) The officers of the Board are the Chair and Vice Chair.
- (b) Elections for Chair and Vice Chair shall be held at the first meeting of each calendar year.

The method of nomination and election of the Chair and Vice Chair will be at the discretion of the Board.

- (c) The Presiding Officer of the Board shall be the Chair, or in the Chair's absence the Vice Chair, followed by the Immediate Past Chair, then the Budget and Finance Committee Chair.

RULE 7. RETENTION OF EXHIBITS AND DOCUMENTARY MATERIAL RECEIVED IN HEARINGS BEFORE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

All exhibits, including documentary materials such as photographs, drawings, maps, letters, petitions, and other physical evidence received by the Board at hearings shall be retained by the Clerk as part of the record of the hearings. To the extent possible, the

Clerk may furnish copies of such materials to persons requesting them upon payment of the fee prescribed for copies of public records.

RULE 8. CEREMONIAL FUNCTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

The Chair is authorized to represent the Authority at ceremonial functions, proclamation ceremonies, and other similar events when the Board has not otherwise designated one of its Members to represent the Authority.

RULE 9. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- (a) The Executive Committee shall conduct all business of the Authority, with the exception of policy issues, including labor relations, budget issues, and other matters specifically retained by the Board of Directors.
- (b) The Executive Committee shall consist of no more than nine members of the Board of Directors. Members of the Executive Committee shall serve until a new member is seated in their stead by virtue of appointment or assumption of one of the designated positions. The Executive Committee membership is comprised of the following designated positions: the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, the immediate past Chair of the Board, and the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. In addition, membership as constituted, shall include at least one member of the County Board of Supervisors. The Chair shall appoint the remaining at-large members, who shall serve subject to approval by majority vote of the Directors present at a subsequent meeting. Said members are authorized to serve pending such vote of the Board. In the selection of at-large members, appointments shall be made in such a manner as to achieve approximately the ratio of cash contract cities to total member agencies of the Authority. The Chair of the City Managers Technical Advisory Committee shall serve as the ex officio non-voting member of the Executive Committee and shall not be included in the determination of a quorum for any meeting.
- (c) The Chair shall appoint a three-member panel of structural fire fund Alternate Directors and a three-member panel of cash contract city Alternate Directors. If an at-large member of the Executive Committee notifies the Clerk of the Authority that he or she cannot attend an Executive Committee meeting, the Clerk shall call, on a rotating basis, Alternate Directors from the respective panels in an attempt to replace a structural fire fund Director with a structural fire fund Alternate and/or a cash contract city Director with a cash contract city Alternate, as the case may be.

In the absence of the member of the Executive Committee representing the County Board of Supervisors, the Alternate voting member shall be the second regular member of the Board of Directors representing the County Board of Supervisors.

In the absence of the Budget and Finance Chair, the Alternate voting member shall be the Vice Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Should the position of Immediate Past Chair on the Executive Committee become vacant, the most recent past Chair, who is a Director and who is not currently seated on the Executive Committee, shall serve in that capacity. Should there be no prior Board Chair on the Board of Directors, the current Director with the most tenure

and not currently seated as a member of the Executive Committee will be seated on the Executive Committee and shall serve in the interim until there is an Immediate Past Chair.

There shall be no Alternate Directors appointed in the absence of the Chair, Vice Chair, or immediate past Chair.

Should the Board Chair or Vice Chair be unable to officiate over a Board and/or Executive Committee meeting that the Immediate Past Chair followed by the Budget and Finance Committee Chair assume the duty of presiding over the meeting.

RULE 10. THE STANDING COMMITTEES

- (a) Standing Committees may be established by the Board of Directors for the purpose of facilitating a thorough review of various issues before presentation to and action by the full Board. Alternate Directors shall not act as alternates for Directors on standing committees.
- (b) The Budget and Finance Committee shall be established as a standing committee. The regular meetings of the Budget and Finance Committee will be on the second Wednesday of each month, with the exception of August and December, at 12 noon located in Classroom 1 (Board Breakout Room) at the RFOTC. Special meetings may occur on other dates, times, and/or locations as noticed.
 - (1) The Chair shall make all appointments to the Budget and Finance Committee. Appointments to the Budget and Finance Committee shall be made in such a manner as to achieve, as close as reasonably possible, a balance between the number of members representing Structural Fire Fund and Cash Contract cities.
 - (2) At the first meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee following the annual election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, the Directors assigned to the Budget and Finance Committee shall elect from their members a Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee.
 - (3) The Chair, or in his/her absence, the Vice Chair, of the Budget and Finance Committee shall serve as a member of the Executive Committee.
 - (4) Items for the agenda for any regular meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee shall be included on the agenda only with the approval of the Committee Chair or the Staff Liaison.
 - (5) The Board of Directors, through the Chair, shall appoint one City Manager to the Budget and Finance Committee. The City Manager shall serve as an ex officio non-voting member of the Budget and Finance Committee. As an ex officio member, the City Manager shall not be included in the determination of a quorum for any meeting.
- (c) The Human Resources Committee shall be established as a standing committee. The regular meetings of the Human Resources Committee will be established by the Committee. The date and time selected by the Human Resources Committee is to meet on a quarterly basis on the first Tuesday during the months of February, May, August, and November at 12 noon. The Human Resources Committee will

meet in Classroom 1 (Board Breakout Room) at the RFOTC. Special meetings may occur on other dates, times, and/or locations as noticed.

- (1) The Human Resources Committee shall not exceed seven members of the Board of Directors. The Chair shall make all appointments to the Human Resources Committee. Appointments to the Human Resources Committee shall be made in such a manner as to achieve, as close as reasonably possible, a balance between the number of members representing Structural Fire Fund and Cash Contract cities.
 - (2) At the first meeting of the Human Resources Committee following the annual election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, the Directors assigned to the Human Resources Committee shall elect from its members a Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee.
 - (3) Staff to the Committee will be the Human Resources Director or his or her designee. Additional subject matter experts may attend Committees as necessary.
 - (4) The Human Resources Committee shall advise OCFA staff and make recommendations to the Board of Directors on matters regarding human resources policies; job class specifications, compensation programs; benefit changes and renewals; employment-related matters that present a significant exposure to litigation to the Authority; labor negotiations; staff training, development and recognition programs; succession planning; risk management and workers' compensation policies; and development of management/performance evaluation and information systems.
- (d) The Legislative and Public Affairs Committee shall be established as a standing committee. The Legislative and Public Affairs Committee shall meet on the third Wednesday during the months of January, March, July and October at 12 noon. The Legislative and Public Affairs Committee will meet in the Classroom 1 (Board Breakout Room) at the RFOTC. Special meetings may occur on other dates, times, and/or locations as noticed.
- (1) The Legislative and Public Affairs Committee shall not exceed seven members of the Board of Directors. The Chair shall make all appointments to the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee. Appointments to the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee shall be made in such a manner as to achieve, as close as reasonably possible, a balance between the number of members representing Structural Fire Fund and Cash Contract cities.
 - (2) At the first meeting of the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee following the annual election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, the Directors assigned to the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee shall elect from its members a Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee.
 - (3) Staff to the Committee will be the Assistant Chief of Business Services and Director of Communications or his or her designee. Additional subject matter experts may attend Committees as necessary.
 - (4) The Legislative and Public Affairs Committee shall advise on matters related to public outreach and legislative affairs at the local, state, and federal levels. The LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE reviews and

provides recommendations on legislative and regulatory matters that may impact the OCFA. The Committee shall receive status reports from OCFA's legislative advocates and staff. In addition, the Committee will review and provide recommendations pertaining to OCFA's public outreach, branding, communications activities, and will evaluate opportunities to enhance OCFA public relations.

- (e) The Operations Committee shall be established as a standing committee. Operations Committee shall meet on a quarterly basis on the second Tuesday during the months of February, May, August and November at 12 noon. The Operations Committee will meet in the Classroom 1 (Board Breakout Room) at the RFOTC. Special meetings may occur on other dates, times, and/or locations as noticed.
 - (1) The Operations Committee shall not exceed seven members of the Board of Directors. The Chair shall make all appointments to the Operations Committee. Appointments to the Operations Committee shall be made in such a manner as to achieve, as close as reasonably possible, a balance between the number of members representing Structural Fire Fund and Cash Contract cities.
 - (2) At the first meeting of the Operations Committee following the annual election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, the Directors assigned to the Operations Committee shall elect from its members a Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee.
 - (3) Staff to the Committee will be the Deputy Chief of Operations or his or her designee. Additional subject matter experts may attend Committees as necessary.
 - (4) The Operations Committee shall advise the Executive Committee and Board of Directors on high level policy decisions related to the operations of the OCFA. The committee review plans for future needs of the OCFA, explores alternatives to services, and makes recommendations to support operations. The committee is not intended to get into the day to day operations of the Fire Authority. The day to day operations is the responsibility of the Fire Chief and Executive Management.

RULE 11. DESIGNATED LABOR NEGOTIATORS

- (a) For purposes of holding a closed session concerning compensation and benefits for the Fire Chief, the Board of Directors' designated representatives shall be the Chair, the Vice Chair, the Immediate Past Chair, and the Budget and Finance Committee Chair. Should the Board and/or Budget and Finance Committee reorganize prior to the completion of the Fire Chief's evaluation process the negotiators that began the process will complete the evaluation.
- (b) For purposes of holding a closed session concerning compensation and benefits for all other represented and unrepresented employees, the Board of Directors' designated representatives shall be the Fire Chief's designee, the Human Resources Director and any other representative so designated at a meeting of the Board of Directors.

RULE 12. PROVISION OF REQUESTED MATERIALS BY BOARD MEMBERS

(a) Should an individual Board Member request information or materials that: (i) are not currently maintained by the OCFA in its normal course of business, and (ii) would require significant staff resources for research or analysis to create a document or to prepare or compile the information, then the requesting Board Member shall seek approval from the Board Chair who shall either approve the request or agendaize the consideration to authorize the request at the next Board meeting.

(b) Should a Board Member or a member agency make a Public Records Act request for official business purposes, in keeping with the current fee schedule, the Board Member or its member agency will not be charged a fee for this service. This privilege is not to be used as a means for members of the public to circumvent the fees approved by the Board of Directors associated with records requests. Any records produced in response to a Board Member or member agency official business requests shall be made available to all Board Members along with a summary of the hard and soft costs involved in the provision of the requested records.

(c) Any Board Member requesting records for purposes other than official use will be charged any applicable fees approved by the Board of Directors that are associated with the request.

RULE 13. COMPENSATION/REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES

(a) Compensation: Members of the Board of Directors are entitled to receive \$100 per meeting per day, with a maximum of \$300 per month, for voting member attendance at OCFA publicly noticed (Brown Act compliant) meetings and the monthly Chair/Chief meeting.

(b) Authorized Expenses: OCFA funds, equipment, supplies (including letterhead), titles, and staff time must only be used for authorized OCFA business. The following types of occurrences qualify a Board Member to receive payment and/or reimbursement of expenses relating to travel, meals, lodging, and other actual and necessary expenses, and generally constitute authorized expenses, as long as the other requirements of this policy are met:

- 1) Communicating with representatives of regional, state and national government on OCFA adopted policy positions;
- 2) Attending conferences designed to improve Board Member's expertise and information levels, including, but not limited to, ethics training required pursuant to California Government Code Section 53234;
- 3) Participating in regional, state and national organizations whose activities affect OCFA's interests;
- 4) Recognizing service to OCFA (for example, acknowledging a longtime employee with a retirement gift or celebration of nominal value and cost);
- 5) Attending OCFA events.

All other expenditures require prior approval by the OCFA Board of Directors at a public meeting. The following expenses also require prior Board of Directors' approval:

- 1) International travel;

- 2) Expenses exceeding \$2,500 per person, per trip.

Examples of personal expenses that OCFA will not reimburse include, but are not limited to:

- 1) The personal portion of any trip;
- 2) Political contributions or events;
- 3) Family expenses, including partner's expenses when accompanying a Board Member on OCFA-related business, as well as children or pet-related expenses;
- 4) Charitable contributions or events, unless the event has a direct relationship to OCFA business, (for example, acknowledging extraordinary deeds by OCFA personnel) is approved by the Fire Chief and does not exceed \$250;
- 5) Entertainment expenses, including theater, movies (either in-room or at the theater), sporting events (including gym, massage and/or golf related expenses), or other cultural events;
- 6) Non-mileage personal automobile expenses, including repairs, traffic citations, insurance or gasoline;
- 7) Personal losses incurred while on OCFA business.

Any questions regarding the propriety of a particular type of expense should be resolved before the expense is incurred.

- (c) Expense and Reimbursement Guidelines: To conserve OCFA resources and keep expenses within appropriate standards for public officials, expenditures, whether paid directly by OCFA or reimbursed to a Board Member, Members should adhere to the following guidelines. Unless otherwise specifically provided, reimbursement for travel, meals, lodging, and other actual and necessary expenses shall be at the Internal Revenue Service rates presently in effect as established in Publication 463 or any successor publication.

Transportation: The most economical mode and class of transportation reasonably consistent with scheduling needs and space requirements must be used, using the most direct and time-efficient route. In the event that a more expensive transportation form or route is used, the cost borne by OCFA will be limited to the cost of the most economical, direct, efficient and reasonable transportation form. Government and group rates offered by a provider of transportation services shall be used when available.

Automobile mileage is reimbursable at Internal Revenue Service rates in effect at the time of travel (see www.irs.gov). These rates are designed to compensate the driver for gasoline, insurance, maintenance, and other expenses associated with operating the vehicle. This amount does not include bridge and road tolls, which are also reimbursable.

Reasonable and necessary charges for public transportation, taxi, or shuttle service are reimbursable at actual cost with receipts.

Rental vehicles may be used during out-of-county travel and will be reimbursed at actual cost. Rental vehicles may be used when the efficient conduct of OCFA business precludes the use of other means of transportation or when car rental is the

most economical mode available. Itemized original receipts must be submitted with vehicle rental claims.

Lodging: Actual lodging costs will be reimbursed or paid for when travel on official OCFA business reasonably requires an overnight stay. If such lodging is in connection with a conference or organized educational activity, lodging costs shall not exceed the group rate published by the conference or activity sponsor for the meeting in question, provided that the group rate is available at the time of booking. Government and group rates offered by a provider of lodging services shall be used when available.

Non-reimbursable lodging-related expenses include, but are not limited to, costs for an extra person staying in the room, costs related to late checkout or uncanceled reservations, in-room pay-per-view movie rentals, and non-OCFA business related phone calls. Itemized receipts must accompany claims for lodging reimbursements.

Meals: Meal expenses and associated gratuities should be moderate, taking into account community standards and the prevailing restaurant costs of the area. OCFA will pay the actual cost of the meals, but will not pay for alcohol/personal bar expenses.

Telephone/Fax/ Cellular: Board Members will be reimbursed for actual telephone and fax expenses incurred on OCFA business. Telephone bills should identify which calls were made on OCFA business. For cellular calls when the Board Member has a particular number of minutes included in the Board Member's plan, the Board Member can identify the percentage of calls made on OCFA business.

Airport Parking: Long-term parking should be used for travel exceeding 24-hours. OCFA will pay the actual cost of long-term parking.

Other: Baggage handling at then current airport baggage rates per bag and gratuities of up to 15 percent will be reimbursed.

Miscellaneous: Actual expenses for registration, tuition, and parking are reimbursable for OCFA authorized business. Miscellaneous expenses must be supported with itemized receipts.

Expenses for which Board Members receive reimbursement from another agency are not reimbursable.

- (d) **Expense Report Content and Submission Deadline:** Expense reports must document that the expense in question meet the requirements of the policy. For example, if the meeting is with a legislator, the Board Member should explain whose meals were purchased, what issues were discussed and how those relate to the Authority's adopted legislative positions and priorities.

Board Members must submit their expense reports within 30 days of an expense being incurred, accompanied by receipts documenting each expense. Restaurant receipts, in addition to any credit card receipts, are also part of the necessary documentation. Receipts for gratuities and tolls under \$5 are not required.

- (e) **Audits of Expense Reports:** All expenses are subject to verification of compliance with this policy.

- (f) Reports to Governing Board: At the following Board of Directors' meeting, each Board Member shall briefly report on meetings attended at OCFA expense. If multiple Board Members attended, a joint report may be made.
- (g) Compliance with Laws: Board Members should keep in mind that some expenditures may be subject to reporting under the Political Reform Act and other laws. All documents related to reimbursable agency expenditures are public records subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act.
- (h) Violation of this Policy: Misuse of public resources or falsifying expense reports in violation of this policy may result in any or all of the following: 1) loss of reimbursement privileges, 2) a demand for restitution to OCFA, 3) OCFA's reporting the expenses as income to the elected official to state and federal tax authorities, and 4) prosecution for misuse of public resources.

RULE 14. DISCLOSURE OF CLOSED SESSION INFORMATION

All information presented to the Board in closed session shall be confidential. However, a Board Member may disclose information obtained in a closed session that has direct financial or liability implications for the Board Member's local agency to the following individuals:

- (a) Legal counsel of the Board Member's local agency for purposes of obtaining advice on whether the matter has direct financial or liability implications for that local agency; and/or
- (b) Other members of the legislative body of the Board Member's local agency present in a closed session of that local agency.

Prior to disclosing any information obtained in a closed session to legal counsel of the Board Member's local agency or other members of the legislative body of the Board Member's local agency, the Board Member shall notify OCFA General Counsel of the intention to discuss the matter with their local agency's legal counsel or other members of the legislative body in order to afford General Counsel the opportunity to discuss with their local agency's legal counsel whether the matter has direct financial or liability implications for the Board Member's local agency.

RULE 15. AMENDMENT OF RULES OF PROCEDURE

No rule of the Board shall be adopted or amended except by resolution adopted by the Board.